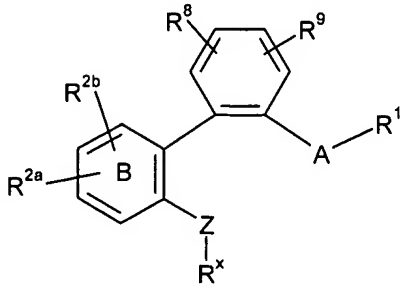
In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9-10, 14-16 and 18. Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 11-13 as follows. Please add new claims 19-21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A ~~represents~~ is an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

B ~~represents~~ is a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z ~~represents~~ is O, S, SO, or SO_2;

R^1 ~~represents~~ is CO_2R^4, CN, $CONR^5R^6$, $CH_2CO_2R^4$, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $NR^5CONR^5R^6$, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} independently ~~represents~~ are hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO_2alkyl, SR^5, NO_2, optionally substituted aryl, $CONR^5R^6$ or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R^x ~~represents~~ is optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally replaced by a group independently selected from NR^4, O and SO_n, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2: or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-aryl;

R^4 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R^5 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R^6 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO_2aryl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^baryl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^bheteroaryl or COR^7;

R^7 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

R^8 and R^9 independently ~~represents~~ are hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF_3, C_{1-3}alkoxy or C_{1-3}alkyl;

Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3;

wherein when A is a 6-membered ring the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other;

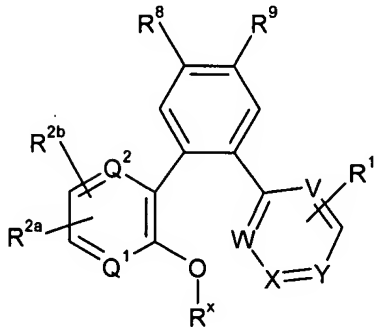
and derivatives thereof;

provided that the compound is not 2-benzyloxy[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-4"-carboxylic acid.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein when A is a 6-membered ring, the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein A is phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrazinyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

W, X, and Y each ~~represents~~ are CR^{12} or N;

V ~~represents~~ is CR^1, CR^{12} or N;

wherein at least two of W, X, Y or V is CR^{12}; and R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, optionally substituted CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, optionally substituted NR^5COC_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted NR^5COphenyl, optionally substituted NR^5COpiperidinyl, optionally substituted NR^5COheterocyclyl, optionally substituted $NR^5SO_2C_{1-6}$alkyl, OH, optionally substituted OC_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

Q^1 and Q^2 each ~~represents~~ is CH, or one of Q^1 and Q^2 is N and the other is CH;

R^1 is CO_2H, optionally substituted $CONHSO_2$aryl, CH_2CO_2H, SO_2NHCOR^7, SO_2NHCOC_{1-6}alkyl or tetrazolyl and is positioned 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, ~~or~~ and CF_3;

R^x ~~represents~~ is optionally substituted C_{1-8}alkyl, or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-phenyl wherein Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3;

R^4 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^5 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^6 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2phenyl, optionally substituted SO_2heterocyclyl group, CN, optionally substituted CH_2phenyl or COR^7;

R^7 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted phenyl; R^8 and R^9 independently represent hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF_3, C_{1-3}alkoxy or C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^{10} and R^{11} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholine ring, a 5- or 6-membered lactam ring or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic sulphonamide,

and derivatives thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein R^x is optionally substituted C_{1-8}alkyl, optionally substituted CH_2phenyl, CH_2pyridyl, or CH_2thienyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein R^{2b} is positioned 1,4- relative to the Z substituent and 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring.

7. (Original) A compound selected from the compounds of Examples 1-90 or a derivative thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ together with a pharmaceutical carrier and/or excipient.

9-10. (Canceled)

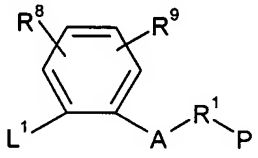
11. (Amended) A method of treating an ~~a human or~~ animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

12. (Amended) A method of treating an ~~a human or~~ animal subject suffering from a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

13. A method of treating an ~~a human or~~ animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~.

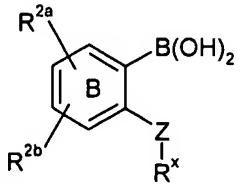
14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 ~~or a derivative thereof~~ comprising:
reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^8, R^9, A, and R^1 are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I), L^1 is a leaving group and P is an optional protecting group;
with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^{2a} ,R^{2b} , B, Z, and R^x are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I);
and where required converting:
one group A to another group A, and/or
one group R^x to another group R^x;
and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:
effecting deprotection; and/or
converting one group R^1 to another group R^1; and/or
forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

18. (Canceled)

19. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said animal is human.

20. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said animal is human.

21. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein said animal is human.